

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A sintered body produced by preparing from a metal powder mixture, lubricating a die with a die lubricant, compressing the metal powder mixture in the lubricated die to form a green compact and sintering the green compact and having a sintered structure of sintered metal particles, the metal powder mixture ~~including~~ consisting essential of a metal powder having a particle size of 75 μ m or smaller, a graphite powder in an amount 0.1 to 0.3% 0.1 to 1.0% by mass and a powder lubricant in an amount of 0.2 to 0.80 % 0.05 to 0.80% by mass based on a total mass of the metal powder mixture, and the sintered metal particles having a maximum particle size of 100 μ m or smaller.

10. (Original) A sintered body according to Claim 9, wherein the sintered body has been heat-treated.

11. (Original) A sintered body according to Claim 9, wherein the sintered body forms at least teeth of a sprocket of a silent chain.

12. (Original) A sintered body according to Claim 9, wherein the sintered body is a high-strength part of an internal combustion engine.

13. (Currently amended) A production method of a sintered body, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

preparing a metal powder mixture, the metal powder mixture ~~including~~ consisting essentially of a fine metal powder having a particle size of 75 μ m or smaller, a graphite powder in an amount of 0.1 to 0.3 % 0.1 to 1.0% by mass and a powder lubricant in an amount of 0.2 to 0.80 % 0.05 to 0.80% by mass based on a total mass of the metal powder mixture;

~~compacting the metal powder mixture to provide a green compact; and~~
applying a die lubricant to a die;

after said applying, compressing the metal powder mixture into the die to provide a green compact; and

sintering the green compact,

wherein the sintered body has a sintered structure of sintered metal particles of 100 μm or smaller in maximum particle size.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) A production method according to Claim 13, wherein the sintered body contains carbon in an amount of 0.05 to 1.0% by mass based on a total mass of the sintered body.

16. (Original) A production method according to Claim 13, wherein the metal powder is a blend of an iron-based powder and an alloying metal powder.

17. (Original) A production method according to Claim 13, wherein said preparing includes granulating the metal powder to form primary particles having a particles size of 75 μm or smaller into secondary particles having a particle size of 180 μm or smaller.

18. (Original) A production method according to Claim 13, wherein the metal powder mixture is compacted while being heated to a temperature of 100 °C or higher.

19. (Original) A production method according to Claim 18, wherein said compacting includes preheating a die to a temperature of 120 °C or higher, and then, compressing the metal powder mixture into the preheated die.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) A production method according to Claim 13, wherein the green compact is sintered at a temperature of 1180 °C or higher.

22. (Original) A production method according to Claim 13, further comprising heat-treating the sintered compact.

23. (Previously presented) A sintered body according to Claim 9, wherein the sintered body contains carbon dispersed in the sintered structure in an amount of 0.05 to 1.0% by mass based on a total mass of the sintered body.
24. (Previously presented) A sintered body according to Claim 13, wherein the sintered body forms at least teeth of a sprocket of a silent chain.
25. (Previously presented) A sintered body according to Claim 13, wherein the sintered body is a high-strength part of an internal combustion engine.